

- 1 What is claimed and desired to be secured by United States Letters Patent is:
- 2 1. In a system having at least one application, a method for executing a search
3 from within the at least one application, the method comprising the steps of:
4 selecting one or more search terms within the at least one application;
5 activating the one or more search terms;
6 performing a search based on the one or more search terms; and
7 returning search results to the at least one application.
- 8
- 9 2. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the at least one application is
10 selected from the group of: word processor; spreadsheet, database, image processor; web
11 browser; text recognition; email client, and operating system.
- 12
- 13 3. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the step of selecting further
14 comprises the step of automatically selecting the one or more search terms pursuant to pre-
15 defined rules.
- 16
- 17 4. A method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of configuring
18 the search.
- 19
- 20 5. A method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of searching
21 according to a context of the one or more search terms.
- 22
- 23 6. A method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of storing the
24 search results.

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2 7. A method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of presenting the
3 search results to the user without the user having to exit the at least one application.
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5 8. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the search is performed without the
6 user having to exit the at least one application.
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8 9. A method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of the
9 manipulating, by a user, the search results.
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11 10. A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for
12 performing the steps recited in claim 1.
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1 11. In a computer system connected to a network, a method for performing a
2 search over the network, the method comprising the steps of:

3 selecting search data within at least one application in the computer system;

4 activating the search data;

5 performing a search on the search data from within the at least one
6 application such that the user is not required to open another application;

7 returning search results to a user within the at least one application, wherein
8 the user views the search results within the at least one application.

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10 12. A method as defined in claim 11, wherein the search data comprises text.

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12 13. A method as defined in claim 11, wherein the step of activating further
13 comprises the step of configuring the search.

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15 14. A method as defined in claim 11, wherein the step of activating further
16 comprises the step of selecting at least one search location.

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18 15. A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for
19 performing the steps recited in claim 11.

1 16. In a computer system having access to one or more applications, the
2 computer system connected to a network, a method for searching over the network, the
3 method comprising the steps of:

4 within an application, previewing data within at least one application;

5 selecting a portion of the previewed data as search terms;

6 performing a search based on the portion of the previewed data without user
7 input;

8 caching search results from the search, wherein the search results are readily
9 available to a user.

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11 17. A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for
12 performing the steps recited in claim 16.

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